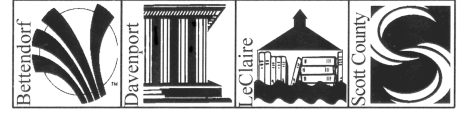


Libraries Together Survey

The four libraries in Scott County are considering how to better serve all county residents. Your responses to the following questions will help them decide.

Libraries Together in Scott County



www.librariestogether.org

1. In the last year, have you visited the following libraries?

Bettendorf	Yes	No
Davenport Main	Yes	No
Davenport Wittenmyer	Yes	No
LeClaire Community Library	Yes	No
Scott County Library System - Eldridge Library	Yes	No
Another Scott County Library System branch	Yes	No
I do not visit any library	Yes	

2. Which one of the above libraries do you visit the most often? _____

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS EVEN IF YOU DON'T VISIT ANY OF THE LIBRARIES:

3a. If you were asked to decide how libraries should best provide services to residents of Scott County, and you could pick only one option, which of the following would you choose? (Please check only one.)

- Everyone in the county should have free access to every library in the county. One central group should decide which materials and programs are offered at which library.
- Each library should provide services and programs designed to meet the needs of its unique group of residents. If residents of another library want to use a program or service, they should have to pay extra.
- Each library should provide services and programs designed to meet the needs of its unique group of residents. Non-residents should have limited access to the services and programs of other libraries.
- Everyone in the county should have free access to every library in the county. The four libraries should work together to share decision making, buy materials and offer programs.

3b. In making your decision about library services, which of the following considerations played the greatest role? Please choose up to three considerations. Write "1" for your first choice, "2" for your second choice and "3" for your third choice.

- I want free access to the library that I like or that's most convenient, even if I do not pay taxes for that library.
- If we share programs, some staff members from my library may not always be available when I need them.
- It costs a little more for independent libraries, but it's worth it to keep the library connected to the community.
- It is most efficient to have all of the county's library services administered by one group.
- If libraries change the way they operate, some people may lose their jobs.
- I want free access to history and genealogy materials that are not provided at every library.
- If we can save money or do things better by sharing services, let's do it.
- We need to centralize decision-making so that we're meeting the needs of the whole county.

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3c. In making your decision about library services, which of the following values is of greatest importance to you? **(Please check only one.)**

- Every tax dollar should be used as efficiently as possible.
- Libraries should be controlled locally.
- Sharing helps build bridges among communities.
- All citizens should have equal access to important public services like libraries.
- Sharing services is more efficient than independent libraries.

4a. If you were asked to decide how best to govern the libraries of Scott County, and you could pick only one option, which of the following would you choose? **(Please check only one.)**

- There would be one board of directors that would govern all the libraries in Scott County.
- The four libraries would each be governed by separate boards of directors as they are now.
- The four libraries would be governed by separate boards of directors, but the boards would get together to conduct joint planning.

4b. In making your decision about how to govern libraries, which of the following considerations played the greatest role? *Please choose up to three considerations. Write "1" for your first choice, "2" for your second choice and "3" for your third choice.*

- If there was one board of directors, it would make decisions that would benefit the whole county, not just one small part of it.
- Turf and politics would get in the way of joint planning.
- The board of directors for each library knows what's best for its residents.
- We need separate boards of directors to keep libraries connected to their communities, but planning together just makes good sense.
- I wouldn't trust one county-wide board to do what's right for my community.
- Having four separate boards of directors is working fine and there's no need to change.

4c. In making your decision about how to govern libraries, which of the following values is of greatest importance to you? **(Please check only one.)**

- Each library should be independent and control its own affairs.
- We need to operate as a region, not as small towns and cities.
- It's more practical to work together on some things.

5a. If you were asked to decide how best to provide funding to libraries, and you could pick only one option, which of the following would you choose? **(Please check only one.)**

- Each government that operates a library should determine how much it spends on that library, as they do now.
- Independent libraries should be able to go directly to voters to set the library tax rate. The tax rate may be different from library to library.
- Libraries in Scott County should be operated and funded on a county-wide basis. There should be a countywide property tax to pay for libraries and libraries should go directly to voters to approve the tax rate. The tax rate each resident pays would be the same.
- Libraries in Scott County should be operated and funded on a county-wide basis. Each government should decide how much of its budget to contribute to libraries. The amount may be different for different governments.

5b. In making your decision about library funding, which of the following considerations played the greatest role? *Please choose up to three considerations. Write "1" for your first choice, "2" for your second choice and "3" for your third choice.*

- I would rather decide how much of my tax dollars go to libraries than have government make that decision.
- If everyone pays the same tax rate, I would probably have to pay more.
- Everybody in the county should pay the same tax rate for library services.
- If all the libraries have the same amount of money, my library wouldn't be as good.
- If everyone pays the same tax rate, I would probably pay less.
- Libraries are more accountable if they get their funding from city or county government.
- Everybody should pay what they can afford, and some can afford to pay more than others.
- If we pool our funds, my community will get more back than it puts in.
- Funding for libraries is pretty fair right now and we shouldn't change the system.
- If we pool our funds, my community will get less back than it puts in.
- If cities and the county put library funding into one pot, they would be less likely to contribute their fair share.

5c. In making your decision about library funding, which of the following values is of greatest importance to you? **(Please check only one.)**

- The system should be fair, with everybody paying the same percentage of the value of their property.
- Voters should get to decide how much to spend for libraries, not elected officials.
- We need government to hold libraries accountable.
- Resources should be used where they're needed most.

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6. How important is it to you that libraries are controlled at the local, rather than county-wide, level?

Very important Somewhat important Neutral Not very important Not at all important Don't know

*The libraries **DO NOT** intend to ask for a tax increase. This question asks you to think about what would cause you to spend more on library services because that provides a clear indication of what you consider most valuable.*

7. I would be willing to pay an additional \$10 or \$15 per year for libraries if:

a. My own city or town had control over the library.	Yes	No
b. If the library was operated by a countywide authority.	Yes	No
c. If the funds went to a city or county government for distribution.	Yes	No
d. If I was paying the same amount as everyone else (as a percentage of the value of my property).	Yes	No
e. If I thought that I would receive better library services.	Yes	No
f. If I thought that my city or town would receive better services.	Yes	No
g. If I thought that everyone in the county would receive better services.	Yes	No
h. I would never be willing to pay more in taxes for libraries.	Yes	No

PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

8. Are you or any of your family members an employee of any of the libraries in Scott County? Yes No

9. Are you: Male Female

10. Do you have children under 18 at home? Yes No

12. What is your age? _____

11. Which **one** of the following best describes your race or ethnicity?

- Asian/Pacific Islander _____
- Native American _____
- White/Caucasian _____
- Black/African American _____
- Spanish/Hispanic/Latino _____

13. Which **one** of the following best describes your highest level of education?

- _____ Grade School
- _____ Associate or trade school degree
- _____ College Degree
- _____ Some High School
- _____ Some College
- _____ Graduate or Professional Degree
- _____ High School/GED